

BRITISH SINK TWO GERMAN CRUISERS OFF ITALY

ENGLISH MEDITERANEAN
FLEET SINK TWO GERMAN
CRUISERS, ITALY HEARS

Gouben and Breslau Sail Indomitably From Messina to Certain Destruction---Heavy Firing Heard Off Sicilian Coast--Then All Again Is Silence.

MEN LEAVE WILLS BEHIND;
SING AS THEY GO TO DEATH

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.
Messina, Italy, Aug. 7.—Close cleared for action, save for their streaming battle flags of black and white and red, and with their bands playing the German national anthem, the battle cruiser Gouben and the cruiser Breslau sped out of port at 5:30 o'clock this morning into the far-spread teeth of the British Mediterranean fleet.

Officers and such seamen as chose had made their wills and left their personal belongings with the German consul. They were going to almost certain death, and they knew it.

The roar of the sea guns was heard in Messina two hours after their departure. It ceased within two hours.

Naval men of Italy, inspired by the splendid courage of the Germans, if not sympathetic with their cause, say there is almost no chance of their escape. The Straits of Messina are easily and closely covered by the great British fleet, they say.

It is believed that the German cruisers, probably attempting a dash to join the Austrian fleet, were caught immediately outside the neutral waters and destroyed.

The incident has heavy emphasis upon the declared neutrality of Italy. The twenty-four-hour limit allowed by the law of nations for an embargo ship to remain in a foreign port expired just after the cruisers steamed away.

The Italian government says the German commander the choice of disarming and keeping his ships in the port of Messina until the end of hostilities or leaving within the stipulated time.

Leave Wills Behind.
Immediately there was activity on the cruisers. While the decks were being cleared for the certain struggle, officers and men were preparing for almost certain death. Emancipators were sent ashore bearing the wills and property that the crews wished to be sent to their families.

The ships went out at full speed. Only the brilliancy of their recent escape from the French fleet off the African coast gives any hope of their escape.

Naples, Aug. 7.—A wireless message intercepted by the operator of a ship here this afternoon indicates that the German cruisers Gouben and Breslau have been sunk in a battle with a British fleet off Messina today. It reads: "Both German ships sunk."

The operator who intercepted it said the message was, apparently, being sent from the vicinity of Messina to a warship off the Southern coast of France.

Rome, Aug. 7.—A Messina dispatch to the Tribune reports that a naval battle between German and French ships is now raging in the Mediterranean. Firing of the guns can be heard at Messina.

Brindisi, Italy, Aug. 7.—The first naval battle in the Adriatic was fought today between the Austrian cruiser Taurus and a flotilla of British torpedo destroyers. The Taurus was crippled, and driven in here to escape her pursuers. She was leaking badly.

Toulon, France (via Paris), Aug. 7.—The French battleship Jean Bart was ordered today to proceed to the Mediterranean at full speed. The orders sending her to the Mediterranean are believed to have followed receipt of information from London that there was no further danger from the German warships. The battleship France also was ordered to the Mediterranean.

Manila, Aug. 7.—A German squadron is engaged in battle with a British cruiser off the coast of China, according to a report received here today.

Poochow, China, Aug. 7.—All British steamers were today ordered to remain in port indefinitely. Business is at a standstill.

Stockholm, Aug. 7.—The captain of a Finnish ship that arrived here today reported that the Russian fleet had been bottled up at Helsingfors, and that the Russian forts at Reval and Libau had been captured by the Germans and burned. There is no confirmation of this report.

A Russian cruiser is reported ashore near Hango, Finland.

\$2.00—Lurey, Va., and Return—\$2.00. Leaving Washington 8:15 a. m. Sunday, Aug. 9. Baltimore and Ohio. Returning same day.—Adv.

LATEST MAP OF WAR SITUATION IN EUROPE



Arrow shows entrance to the Kiel Canal, protected by the great German fortifications of Heligoland. The canal is the great German highway between the North and Baltic seas. The German fleet is either in this canal or the Baltic. Star shows city of Liege, which is being stormed by German forces.

NORTH SEA
HIDES FATE
OF ARMADA

German Fleet Is Bottled Up, All Evidences Indicate.

HEAVY FIRING IS HEARD

English Skippers Given Full Leeway in Zone of Reported Battle.

London, Aug. 7.—In the face of a statement by Winston Churchill, first lord of the admiralty, that as far as the admiralty is aware, there has been no general engagement in the North Sea, the following facts stand out boldly today:

The British admiralty yesterday notified British shippers that they were free to send their ships anywhere in the North Sea.

Persistent reports, without details, of heavy firing off the British coast, reach London from all points along the coast.

The French battleship Jean Bart is reported to have been ordered to the Mediterranean from Toulon, France, a route which would require it to pass through the zone which might be occupied by the German high seas fleet if the British home fleet has not driven the Germans from the zone.

Nineteen German ships are reported to have been sunk in a terrific fight between the fleets of Great Britain and the Kaiser in the North Sea.

The German ships that succeeded in escaping after the conflict are said to have been driven back to the mouth of the Elbe and to be bottled up there.

British shippers today received official notice that they were free to send their vessels anywhere in the North Sea. This was taken as a confirmation of reports that the battle had been fought, and won by England.

Reports from various ports state that heavy firing was heard in the North Sea during the twenty-four hours beginning at 4 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, and it is said that at that time the German

CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE.
Baltimore & Ohio to Baltimore, 11:30 round trip every Saturday and Sunday, good returning until 9 a. m. Monday.—Adv.

FRENCH INVADE GERMANY;
TAKE THREE SMALL TOWNS

400,000 Infantry and Cavalry Under Gen. Joffre Are Ready to Rush Across Border; Noted Authors Privates in the Republic's Army.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.

Paris, Aug. 7.—The French invasion of Germany began today. It was announced at the war ministry that troops of the republic had crossed the frontier and captured Vic and Moyenvic, small German towns in Alsace-Lorraine, about twenty miles from Nancy.

Though this is only a preliminary movement to protect the main advance of the French forces, 400,000 infantry and cavalry and an immense force of artillery are ready to cross the frontier when Gen. Joffre gives the order.

The war ministry confirmed reports that Holland's neutrality had been violated by German troops.

Edmond Rostand and Maurice Barres, both distinguished authors and members of the French Academy, are wearing the uniforms of privates in the French army which is moving towards the frontier.

George V Quits Dragoners;
Kaiser Still Dragon King

London, August 7.—King George has resigned his commission as honorary commander of the First Prussian Dragon Guards of the German army, but it was stated today that Emperor William is still honorary colonel of the British Dragon Guards, no official notice of his resignation having been received.

Italy Faces Decision to
Affect Whole Future

Rome, Aug. 7.—The Duke of Avarano, the Italian Ambassador in Vienna, had a conversation with the Austrian Emperor and his ministers today and it is believed tonight that a final decision of the greatest moment and of the utmost importance to the future of Italy must be reached in a few hours.

KING'S CALL
BRINGS OUT
THOUSANDS

Recruiting Offices Stormed by Hordes Who Would Go to War.

BANK RATE GOES DOWN

Financial Situation Is Satisfactory, Declares Chancellor Lloyd George.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.

London, Aug. 7.—War Minister Lord Kitchener's appeal for recruits for the British army is meeting with a response which surpasses anything in the memory of the oldest war office attaché. Immense throngs of men of all ages stood all day in front of the recruiting stations awaiting examination, some wearing silk hats, some poorly clothed, but all burning with the martial spirit of the hour.

The Bank of England discount rate will be reduced tomorrow from 5 to 4 per cent, according to announcement made today.

The financial situation was perfectly satisfactory with the opening of the banks, Chancellor of the Exchequer Lloyd George declared tonight. He added that the Bank of England had received on foreign accounts \$28,000,000 in gold, and that some of the banks had received more money than they had paid out. There are no signs of the hoarding of gold.

Government Takes Silver.
All available silver for currency purposes have been taken over by the government.

The current statement of the Bank of England shows how the money needs of the European war have affected its status. During the last week the reserve ratio dwindled from 40.01 per cent to 34.60 per cent. The total reserve suffered a decrease of \$5,000,000. Gold on hand was reduced by \$2,000,000 and loans increased \$3,000,000. The reserve now totals \$15,000,000 as against \$18,000,000 a year ago, while bullion stands at \$13,000,000 as compared with \$16,000,000.

25,000 GERMANS FALL
BEFORE LIEGE; KAISER'S
FORCES ASK ARMISTICE

City Still Stands, Despite Fierce Three Days' Attack; French Troops Rush to Aid of Allies; Bombs from German Aero Create Havoc Among Belgians.

DAY TO BURY THEIR DEAD
ASKED BY TEUTON INVADERS

London, Aug. 7.—The Daily Chronicle prints an unconfirmed report from Maestricht that Liege has been evacuated by the Belgian army, which is falling back to Namur. The Belgian legation tonight officially stated that Liege still is holding out.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.

Brussels, Aug. 7.—It is announced officially that the Germans have asked for a twenty-four-hour armistice at Liege.

Twenty-five thousand Germans out of a total force of 80,000 operating about Liege have fallen in the three days' continuous fighting. The Germans were driven back again today in three desperate charges.

Furious fighting continues, and the dead and wounded are lying unattended on the battlefield.

It is believed the Germans want the armistice to relieve their wounded and bury their dead.

KING ALBERT TO DECIDE.

The request has been laid before King Albert. He must consider in deciding whether Germany would take advantage of twenty-four hours' delay to bring up re-enforcements.

News has been received here that a French army has entered Belgium and is advancing to the support of the Belgians.

"The French are coming up" was the cry that rang along the Liege fortifications tonight. There is wild enthusiasm over the continued victories of the Belgians.

The events before Liege are considered as merely the raising of the curtain, and that Belgium once more will be the country where the destinies of Europe will be decided.

Trains Bring Wounded.
Trains filled with wounded and fugitive noncombatants are arriving here hourly from Liege and neighboring towns along the battle line.

Though in good spirits the Belgians are exhausted from their fifty hours of fighting without rest. The arrival of the French will be welcomed.

Noncombatants arriving say they saw Germans mown down by hundreds in front of the trenches and entanglements by the gun and rifle fire of the Belgians, but were replaced by others who crawled forward like weasels.

In certain places in the fighting zone the ground was covered with dead, the burial of which, it was said, will take at least a week.

German Losses 25,000.

Twenty-five thousand Germans out of a total force of 80,000 before Liege have fallen in three days' continuous fighting. Three entire regiments of Uhlans, crack cavalrymen, have been completely destroyed. The crack regiments of the Tenth Army Corps were practically blown to pieces by mines.

A battalion of the Tenth attempted to cross a zone which had been mined. Midway in their charge the mines were exploded. Vast clouds of earth rose in the air and high above them the bodies of men and horses killed instantly by the blast. When quiet settled again over the scene almost every man in the battalion was dead. Twelve hundred wounded Germans were carried from the field by the Belgians.

At the height of the furious bombardment of the forts a German aeroplane soared over Liege and dropped bombs into the streets. Thirty persons were killed in the explosions and as many more wounded.

The city of Liege is on fire in half a dozen places. The Palace of Justice and the magnificent Cathedral of St. Paul are among the buildings blazing.

By a ruse early today the Belgians drew the Germans into a trap and then shot them down like cattle. They made a show of evacuating the outer fortresses. The Germans pressed into the gap. Thereupon the Belgians closed

CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE.

Hotel Woodstock, New York City. Comfort Without Extravagance.—Adv.

THREE NEGROES LYNCHED.
Monroe, La., Aug. 7.—Two negroes charged with being implicated in the murder of Jack Madden, an aged storekeeper, were lynched this morning. A seventeen-year-old negro boy was lynched yesterday in connection with the same murder.

33.—To Atlantic City and Return—\$2. Sunday, Aug. 9. Baltimore and Ohio. Leaving Washington 7:15 a. m. and Atlantic City 6:00 p. m. Free transfer in Philadelphia included. Grand opportunity to visit America's greatest seashore resort. Children half fare.—Adv.

The Famous
War Dispatches
OF THE
London Times
AND THE
London Daily Telegraph
Exclusively in
The Washington Herald
Most Accurate and Complete
War Reports Every Day.